

DRAFT RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

U.S. Application No. 09/415,205

Q56197

REMARKS

Applicant thanks Examiner Gary for the opportunity of an in-person Examiner Interview conducted on June 2, 2003.

At the interview, Applicant's representative stated that the prior art, including Hachimura and Sotek, does not disclose the features of claim 1. By way of illustrative example, the prior art does not disclose a plurality of unit IDs registered in each of the slave telephone sets. The Examiner agreed that the cited prior art does not meet the claim limitations of claim 1, agreed to remove the Sotek reference, and agreed to conduct a further search of the prior art. See also the Interview Summary.

At the interview, Applicant's representative also conveyed to the Examiner the concern that several non-final Office Actions have now been issued in this case, and that Applicant should not be penalized for the fact that a second Examiner has taken over the examination of this case. The Examiner was receptive to this concern and agreed that Applicant should not be so penalized.

Claims 1-12 are all the claims pending in the Application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2 and 6-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over prior art cited in the previous Office Action, Hachimura, U.S. Patent Number 6, 327,477, in view of Sotek, et al., WO 97/38370. This rejection is traversed.

Independent claims 1, 2, 6, 10 and 12 require, *inter alia*, a plurality of unit IDs preliminarily registered in each of the slave telephone sets. Hachimura discloses a wireless communication apparatus and system in which a master unit is connected to a slave unit (e.g. Hachimura, Fig. 1). The Examiner acknowledges that Hachimura does not disclose unit IDs preliminarily registered in the slave and master units. In fact, Hachimura does not disclose or suggest an ID for a slave unit. Therefore, Hachimura belongs to the prior art discussed by Applicant's disclosure.

Sotek discloses (1) a communication system with a master station and a slave station (E.g. Abstract; col. 1, lines 14-16), which is physically connected by wires (E.g. Figs. 1 and 4). Sotek discloses that each slave station has one identification code ID, and that this ID is different for all the slave stations connected to the communication system. (Sotek, e.g. col. 4, lines 23-26; Fig. 3, shows the ID register storing the slave station's unique ID.) Sotek does not disclose or suggest a plurality of IDs for each slave set. Further, Sotek does not disclose or suggest a plurality of IDs preliminarily registered in each slave set, as *inter alia* required by claims 1, 2, 6, 10 and 12. Therefore, the prior art, including Hachimura and Sotek, does not disclose or suggest the recitations of claims 1, 2, 6, 10 and 12.

No Motivation to Combine

Further, there is no suggestion or motivation to combine Hachimura and Sotek. The Examiner alleges that the motivation would have been to allow detection, notification and confirmation of communicable slave units for the processing of incoming calls. However, it is

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respectfully submitted that this general purpose would not have led a person of ordinary skill in the art to Applicant's claimed invention. Specifically, by way of example among other reasons, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have been led to a plurality of unit IDs preliminarily registered in each of the slave telephone sets.

Claims 7-9 depend from claim 6. Claim 11 depends from claim 10. Thus, claims 7-9 and 11 incorporate novel and nonobvious features of their respective base claims. Therefore, claims 7-9 and claim 11 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art for at least the reasons that claims 6 and 11, respectively, are patentably distinguishable over the prior art.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4/1 and 4/2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Hachimura and Sotek, in view of previously relied upon prior art, Wakayama, U.S. Patent No. 6,212,221. This rejection is traversed.

Wakayama does not cure the deficiencies of Sotek. Wakayama discloses a communication apparatus having master sets with slave sets connected wirelessly using a spread spectrum communication method. Wakayama does not disclose a plurality of unit IDs registered in the master set.

Therefore, Hachimura, Sotek and Wakayama do not disclose or suggest the recitations of claims 1 and 2. Claim 4 depends from claim 1, or in the alternative from claim 2. Thus, claim 4 incorporates novel and nonobvious features of either claim 1 or 2. Therefore, claim 4 is

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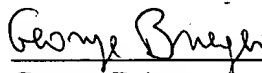
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patentably distinguishable over the prior art for at least the reasons that claims 1 and 2 are
patentably distinguishable over the prior art.

In view of the foregoing remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this Application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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